

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
WACO DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

CHARLES EDWARD MERCHANT

§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§

No. 6:18-CR-225-ADA-1

**MEMORANDUM AND RECOMMENDATION**

Pursuant to the referral by the District Judge, the defendant, the defendant's attorney and the attorney for the government appeared before the undersigned Magistrate Judge on February 25, for the purpose of the defendant's entry of a plea of guilty. At that time the defendant entered a guilty plea as stated on the record. The Magistrate Judge addressed the defendant personally in open court and, after assuring that the defendant was competent to proceed and had consented to pleading guilty before a Magistrate Judge, admonished the defendant in accordance with Rule 11, Fed. R. Crim. P., of the nature of the charge, the possible penalties, the defendant's constitutional and statutory rights, and the consequences of pleading guilty. The defendant acknowledged understanding these admonishments. The undersigned also addressed the defendant concerning the voluntariness of the guilty plea. Finally, the undersigned assured the existence of a factual basis for the guilty plea. Based upon the answers to the court's questions from the defendant and from counsel, the Magistrate Judge makes the following findings:

1. the defendant is competent to stand trial;
2. the defendant has consented to plead guilty before a Magistrate Judge;
3. the defendant fully understands the nature of the charge and the penalties;

4. the defendant understands defendant's constitutional and statutory rights and desires to waive them;
5. the defendant's plea is freely, knowingly and voluntarily made;
6. the defendant is satisfied with their attorney's representation and has no complaints regarding the attorney's representation of any type; and
7. there is a factual basis for the plea.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is, therefore, the recommendation of the Magistrate Judge that the guilty plea be **ACCEPTED** and that a Judgment of guilt be entered against the defendant.

### **Instructions for Service and Notice of Right to Appeal/Object**

The United States District Clerk shall serve a copy of this Memorandum and Recommendation on all parties either (1) electronic transmittal to all parties represented by an attorney registered as a Filing User with the Clerk of Court pursuant to the Court's Procedural Rules for Electronic Filing in Civil and Criminal Cases; or (2) by certified mail, return receipt requested, to any party not represented by an attorney registered as a Filing User. Pursuant to Title 28 U.S.C. Section 636 (b)(1) and Rule 59(b)(2), Fed. R. Crim. P., any party who desires to object to this report must serve and file written objections to the Memorandum and Recommendation within 14 days after being served with a copy unless this time period is modified by the district court. A party filing objections must specifically identify those findings, conclusions or recommendations. to which objections are being made and the basis for such objections; the district court need not consider frivolous, conclusive or general objections. *Such party shall file the objections with the clerk of court and serve the objections on all other parties and the Magistrate Judge.* A party's failure to file written objections to the proposed findings, conclusions and

recommendations contained in this report shall bar the party from a de novo determination by the district court. *See Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140, 150, 106 S. Ct. 466, 472, 88 L.Ed.2d 435 (1985). Additionally, any failure to file written objections to the proposed findings, conclusions and recommendation contained in this Memorandum and Recommendation within 14 days after being served with a copy shall bar the aggrieved party, except upon grounds of plain error, from attacking on appeal the unobjected-to proposed factual findings and legal conclusions accepted by the district court. *Douglass v. United Services Automobile Association*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1428-29 (5th Cir. 1996).

SIGNED this 4th day of March 2025.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DEREK T. GILLILAND  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE